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25X1

COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

SUBJECT PZPR School for Party Veterans in
Warsaw

DATE DISTR. 11 APR 1958

NO. PAGES 1

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report containing information
on the PZPR (Polish United Workers Party) School for Party Veterans
in Warsaw. The school, planned before Gomulka came into power,
opened on 10 October 1956 and closed on 27 July 1957.

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1. In October 1956 a school was opened by the Polska Zjednoczona Partia Robotnicza (PZPR) in Łazienki Park, Warsaw, for the reeducation of veteran Polish communists. The school was the brainchild of then 1st Secretary of the PZPR, Edward OCHAB, and was set up under the direction of the Central Committee (CC). The goals of the school were never published for student consumption; however, it appeared that OCHAB wanted to bring together members of the present PZPR who either had been members of the old Kommunistische Partei Poland (KPP), had been in Nazi Concentration Camps, had fought in the Spanish Civil War, or had served prison sentences for communist activity to attend a one-year course in modern communism. At the students were assembling early in October 1956, Wladyslaw GOMULKA took over the Polish Government and the school as OCHAB had planned it became obsolete before the first classes began. Nevertheless, the school opened on 10 October 1956 with an enrollment of 150 students and a revised curriculum of reading-writing-arithmetic courses, beginning at the 7th year Volksschule level, and including only a minimum of political instruction. Courses ran until the school was discontinued on 27 July 1957.

2. The school was housed in a large building in the northeast corner of Łazienki Park, ul. Agrikola 9, Warsaw, and was administered by a staff of 12, as follows:

A. The Director, B. GILLER

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B. The Assistant-director, inu SWOLARCZYK,

C. 5 Supervisors: names unknown

Each of the supervisors was assigned a class of 30 students. He handled administrative matters for his group and substituted for professors or lecturers who failed

to appear for their classes. In such cases the supervisor usually would lead a political discussion concerning a recent article from Tribuna Ludu. One of the supervisors doubled as Culture Referent. He took charge of the student's off-duty hours and purchased opera, theater, and cinema tickets at the student's request. He also selected books for the school library and kept the school's TV in running order. 25X1

D. The Librarian, name unknown [redacted] 25X1
She tended the school library from 0800 hours until about 1400 hours. The library itself offered a wide selection of Polish literature and newspapers. The newspaper selection included 2-3 copies of each of the Polish city daily papers, 4-5 copies of an unidentified Jewish paper, and about 150 copies of Tribuna Ludu daily.

E. The Cashier, name unknown [redacted] 25X1
The cashier was in charge of paying student's wages and buying provisions for the school kitchen. Each student was paid his full monthly wage by the PZPR while on leave of absence to attend the school, and received travel expenses to and from the school to his home at the beginning and end of the school term as well as round trip expenses at Easter, Whitsunday, and Christmas.

F. The Accountant, name unknown [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] She kept the school books and acted as substitute 25X1
librarian.

G. The Doctor, name unknown [redacted] 25X1
She came to the school from a Warsaw hospital every day at about 1300 hours to hold office hours.

H. The Nurse, name unknown [redacted] 25X1
She came to the school daily, usually with the doctor.

3. Students for the school were selected by the local Party offices on the basis of ~~Party history~~ their Party history. Delegations varied in size from one to fourteen, with larger groups attending from Katowice, Krakow, and Warsaw. All other large cities of Poland sent at least one student with the notable exception of Poznan. The composition of the student group was about 15-20% laborers, 20-30% UB officials (of whom four wore uniforms, 1 colonel, 2 majors, 1 captain), and the rest were Party functionaries of varying rank. 25X1

~~xxxxx~~ Students ranged in age from 45 to 60. Enrollment totaled 150, five of whom were women. About 20 of the students dropped out of the school for one reason or another during the 10 months. The following are the names of some of the students:

- a. From Szczecin: fnu KUPERBERG, Party functionary
fnu FERBER, factory official
fnu ROZANSKI,
fnu RAINER, trade union official
fnu STEZ, factory official
fnu WAIMANN, Militz official
Maria GUSMANN
Emil PRENDZYNA, laborer
fnu LISAK
- b. From Warsaw: fnu TWARDOWSKI, factory official
fnu PASZTA
fnu LIPSTEIN
- c. From Lodz: fnu KOZIROG, senior Party functionary
fnu ROGALSKI, Major, UB
- d. From Zabrze: Richard STODCRY
Willi PIONTEK
Josef WALOSZCZYK, minor Party official
- e. From Olaszyn: fnu TATAR, Party official

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5. As the students assembled early in October, it was rumored that either OCHAB, GOMULKA, or ZAWADZKI would attend the ceremonies marking the official opening of the school. Special emphasis was to be given to courses on the history of the Polish working class movement, Marxism, and communist political economy. With the political changes in Poland, these intentions did not materialize. Only one minor ~~KC~~ official, name unknown,

4.

attended the opening of the school, and the curriculum was set at the level of the 7th class of a normal Volksschule, as follows: 25X1

- a. Mathematics (up to Algebra), 4-6 hours per week
- b. Polish Grammar, 4-6 hours per week
- c. Geography, 4-6 hours per week
- d. Polish literature, 4-6 hours per week
- e. Chemistry, 1-2 hours per week
- f. Biology, 1-2 hours per week

g. Current World Events, 2-4 hours per week. The entire student body was assembled on Tuesday and Thursday for a two hour lecture/discussion on current topics let By a member or representative of the ZK. This was the only politically oriented instruction given in the course. One of the ~~KK~~ representatives' who led the current events discussions was H. KOZŁOWSKA 25X1

Other than the twice weekly visits by the ~~KK~~-missionaries, lectures were given by professors from Warsaw Universities who spent five hours per day at the school lecturing in their field. The school operated on a 6 day week with classes running from 0800 until 1300 hours. Initially scheduled to run for one year (including 2-months vacation time), the school was ~~then~~ at first announced to have been cut to six months; however, after Christmas vacation the staff announced that the course would run for 10 months. No exams or written papers were ever assigned students nor was any attempt to evaluate or grade them ever evident. At Christmas students were given a 30-day vacation, and since the vacation coincided with the Sejm elections, they were told to report to their local Party offices to agitate for the elections.

6. By the time the school closed three distinct groups were evident in the student body:

A. The anti-Jewish group: the anti-Jewish group was composed largely of students from Warsaw and from the coal mining areas of Poland. This group resented the strength of the Jewish element in Poland and the extent to which it had taken over the senior positions in the PZPR. Many of these high-ranking Jews had allegedly immigrated or had been sent from Russia. A great deal of attention was given to the remark by

Kruschev on the eve of the October changes in Poland to the effect that the Jews now held too many official posts in Poland and that their number would have to be reduced.

B. The Natolin Group: this group conducted its activities in strictest secrecy, therefore very little was known about their activities. However, members of this group were predominantly senior Party functionaries and UB officials.

C. The anti-Soviet group: The anti-Soviet group was made up of the nationalistic Poles who resented the dependence of the Polish economy on the Soviet Union and in particular the heavy coal deliveries which the UdSSR was exacting from Poland.

7. The school closed on 27 July 1957 and never reopened. The building in Łazienki Park which had housed the school was converted to a school for sculpture. Most of the UB personnel who had attended the school found themselves jobless in July, and many were pensioned. The remaining students returned to their old places of employment, apparently not very much better off politically as a result of their schooling. The school was rumored to have cost the PZPR about 2½ million Zloty.